

**MINUTES OF  
YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING  
January 14, 2009  
AUDITORIUM**

**Attendees:**

Annie Maguire  
Lynnie Strother  
Caroline Orsi  
Natalie Carmona  
Christine Wood  
Karen Brennan  
Meghan Moore  
Holly Kelly  
Geoff Ball  
Deb Ritchie  
Alicia Sillars  
Sarah Smith

The minutes from the December meeting were approved at 7:38 after adding Deb Ritchie to the list of attendees. Karen made the motion to approve the minutes and Christine seconded the motion.

**Mistletoe Magic – 12/5/08**

There were over 600 kids. It was an “interesting” evening. There was a problem with the electrical system and the digital photo printers were inefficient as each picture took approximately 1 minute and 20 seconds to develop. Also, not all of the parent volunteers knew how to use the printers. Luckily there were remaining Polaroids and a photographer was there from the Darien Times. She took pictures and posted them on [www.pricelessmemories.com](http://www.pricelessmemories.com). This is a protected site. Parents could e-mail her to get the password to view the photos. She did this free of charge, however, next year there will be a cost. Also because of the new ceiling tiles the fire alarm went off three times. Fortunately, Bob Bush, acting as a Santa, was there and was able to disarm the system. He is going to be a guest at the February TOPS meeting to discuss this issue, but overall the kids had a good time.

**High School Gift Drive**

Because the Snow Ball was cancelled the high school had a gift card drive. Students who donated gifts were given a \$5 coupon to use toward library fines. A lot of toys were collected and the drive was very successful.

**TOPS – 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling – 1/23/08**

**TOPS – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Gym and Swim – 1/23/08**

There are two kids (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) who need aides.

So far there are only 35 kids registered, but it is expected to increase.

**TOPS - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Valentine’s Day Dance**

The money from the sale of flowers will be given to the Mike Lauro Fund.

We may sell flowers all week at Middlesex.

Nielson’s Florist is community friendly and may donate the flowers or give them at a reduced price

Hopefully there will be a band for ½ an hour and a DJ for 1 hour

**Community Arts Festival – 3/7/09**

Invitations will be sent out next week.

We are still looking for a group to do a short performance before hand.

Possibly the puppeteer from last year or Phil Klipper

We are asking the face painter and caricaturist to return.

**Newington Children's Theater – 3/24/09**

The electrical system cannot be changed. However, there will be an electrician on call and they can test the lights beforehand. They will be performing Sleeping Beauty.

**Volunteer Fair and HSPC CARE Luncheon – 1/30/09**

The Luncheon will be at the Country Club of Darien. The cost is \$40. The keynote speaker will be Stephen Post the author of Why Good Things Happen to Good People.

**Summer Camp**

June 22 – July 30

Information will be distributed through the schools

All the directors will be returning → They set the tone for the program

Counselors must have completed their junior year in high school

Each counselor is supposed to have about 10 kids each

There is a feeling that the economic environment will increase the enrollment.

**Middle School Summer Activity Program****Family Concert Series / Sandcastle Building Contest**

Maybe we could have a Motown Night.

Who played at the food fair?

An average of \$700 is budgeted for each band.

Maybe we could have the music start at 6:00 to accommodate younger children.

**Movie Night**

Possibly July 1<sup>st</sup>

In February or March we can choose from a list of available movies.

Increase the charge to \$4 per person and \$10 per car.

**FY 09/10 Budget Discussion**

The budget is very "impressive"

There is a 3.9% decrease in salaries as there is fewer returning staff.

Two directors are pregnant so they will share the job.

We are paying one salary versus two.

There is also no vacations activity program.

All the money was raised for the playground and installation should start soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Smith